

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10485 01 OF 02 301756Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 301647Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6906
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10485

USEEC

PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, UN, EEC
SUBJECT: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. SUMMARY: BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE MAY MEETING OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) HAD DEGENERATED INTO THE USUAL DEMANDS BY THE G-77 FOR AGREEMENT ON TEXTS CONTAINING FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING STATES. THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN NEW YORK, FEEL THAT SUCCESS IN SUCH INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF WHAT THEY CAN OBTAIN IN THE FORM OF WRITTEN COMMITMENTS. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD TRY TO HAVE THE COW PRESIDENT OBTAIN PARTICIPATION BY SENIOR G-77 REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAPITALS AT THE COW SEPTEMBER MEETING AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MEETING SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE TO NEGOTIATE NEW COMMITMENTS. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEEMPHASIZE COW IF IT APPEARS THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10485 01 OF 02 301756Z

THE G-77 ARE NOT WILLING TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WITHOUT PUSHING FOR NEGOTIATED GAINS. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN KEY G-77 MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT MANFRED

CASPARI OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE COW BECAUSE OF THE G-77 NEW YORK "MAFIA". ALTHOUGH THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF THE COW IN MAY HAD STARTED OUT USEFULLY, THE INSISTENCE BY THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES ON APPROVAL OF TEXTS PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE DEVELOPED STATES, MADE HIM PERSONALLY DOUBTFUL THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LAY THE BASIS FOR USEFUL DISCUSSIONS IN COW IN THE FUTURE. THE G-77 REPRESENTATIVES FEEL THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY PRODUCE CONCRETE BENEFITS FOR THEIR COUNTRIES. EVESOME OF THE DEVELOPING STATE DELEGATIONS (INDIA AND IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE) WERE DISGUSTED BY THE WAY THE TALKS WENT. HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DEVELOPED STATES TELL THE PRESIDENT OF THE COW, MR. JAZAIRY THAT THE DEVELOPED STATES HAD NOTHING TO GIVE AND THAT IF THE G-77 CONTINUE TO TRY TO FORCE APPROVAL OF TEXTS AND TO NEGOTIATE D.EMANDS, WE SHOULD ALLOW THE COW TO TERMINATE.

3. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS AGREED THAT THE MAY COW MEETING HAD DEGENERATED FROM A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO A RE-EMERGENCE OF THE OLD G-77 DEMANDS AND THE SLIGHTLY REVISED VERSIONS OF OLD TEXTS. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE COW WILL FAIL UNLESS THE PARTICIPANTS STOOD BACK AND LOOKED AT BASIC ISSUES AND SEARCHED FOR SERIOUS WAYS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED IN THE PAST TO ADVANCE THE COMMON INTEREST OF ALL STATES--NOT MERELY TO GO OVER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 10485 01 OF 02 301756Z

OLD GROUND. HE ALSO FELT THAT THE MAJOR HURDLE IS THE FACT THAT THE NEW YORK G-77 REPRESENTATIVES MAINTAIN THE OLD VIEW THAT SUCCESS OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IS MEASURED ONLY BY THE NEGOTIATION OF WORDS WHICH IMPLY CONCRETE BENEFITS. HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TELL JAZAIRY VERY FRANKLY THAT (A) WE MUST FIND DIFFERENT CRITERIA TO MEASURES SUCCESS; (B) HE SHOULD CONVINCE THE LOCAL G-77 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VALUE OF SUCH AN APPROACH; AND (C) IF THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME POSSIBLE HOPE, HE SHOULD SEEK TO CONVINCE GOVERNMENTS IN KEY G-77 CAPITALS THAT THEY SHOULD ADOPT THESE NEW CONCEPTS OF SUCCESS AND PERSONALLY ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE COW.

4. CASPARI TENDED TO AGREE, BUT FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL ALSO TO CONVINCE THE G-77 AMBASSADORS IN NEW YORK AND THE FIRST SECRETARIES WHO PERFORM MUCH OF THE WORK. HE CAUTIONED THAT SENDING G-77 REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS IS NOT ALWAYS USEFUL BECAUSE IF THEIR GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO SPARE THE TIME OF THE FEW QUALIFIED OFFICIALS FOR SUCH MEETINGS, THEY MUST RETURN WITH SOME TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO SHOW THAT THEIR PARTICIPATION WAS INDEED WORTHWHILE. JAZAIRY IS CLEARLY NOT THE STUMBLING BLOCK AND EVERYTHING

SHOULD BE DONE TO TRY TO GET HIM TO HAVE THE G-77 COUNTRIES SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR CAPITALS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF BROAD ECONOMIC ISSUES.

5. AMBASSADOR HINTON COMMENTED THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING A PROBLEM WHICH MAY IN EFFECT HAVE NO SOLUTION. REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE TO THE G-77 GROUP CANNOT STOP REQUESTING BENEFITS FOR THAT GROUP WITHOUT BEING ACCUSED OF BETRAYING IT. FURTHERMORE, HE FELT THAT MANY OF THE G-77 CAPITALS DO NOT HAVE EXPERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10485 02 OF 02 301757Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10485

WHO ARE WILLING TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WITHOUT PRESSING FOR IMMEDIATE GAINS FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

6. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER WONDERED WHETHER HOLDING THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COW OUT OF NEW YORK AND IN AN LDC CAPITAL (E.G., COLOMBO) WHICH WOULD BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE THIRD WORLD MIGHT ENCOURAGE SOME OF THE G-77 STATES TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS ATTEND. HOLDING THE MEETING IN AN LDC CAPITAL WOULD ALSO BE A USEFUL POLITICAL GESTURE, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROBABLY IRRITATE THE UN SECRETARIAT. HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT WE CONVINCE THE G-77 THAT THERE IS NO HOPE IN GOING TO THE COW TO GET NEW COMMITMENTS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IF THIS IS THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE, WE HAD BETTER DROP THE COW AS A SERIOUS EXERCISE.

7. AS FOR PROCEDURES, COOPER SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY G-77 OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS AND THEIR NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE THE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE COW. HE AGREED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10485 02 OF 02 301757Z

THAT WE SHOULD ALSO APPROACH JAZAIRY IN JUNE. CASPARI NOTED THAT THE MEMBER STATES WILL HOLD A GENERAL COORDINATION MEETING ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES ON JUNE 7. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE US AND THE EC COMMISSION WOULD TRY TO GET TOGETHER AFTER THIS MEETING TO SEE HOW WE COULD THEN BEST PROCEED. IN THE MEANTIME, WE COULD ALSO TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL SUBJECTS ON WHICH WE COULD FOCUS ATTENTION TO ACHIEVE SOME PROGRESS IN THE COW.

8. MR. HORMATS THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA AND ASKED THE EC TO GIVE US ANY IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE FOR SUCH SUBJECTS AND WE WOULD DO THE SAME. COOPER SUGGESTED THAT FOOD MIGHT BE SUCH A SUBJECT SINCE IT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FEW SUCCESSFUL TOPICS AT THE CIEC LAST YEAR.

9. IN CONCLUSION IT WAS AGREED THAT THE US AND THE EC SHOULD TELL JAZAIRY AS BLUNTLY AND AS FRANKLY AS NECESSARY THAT WE HAVE NOTHING TO OFFER THE G-77 AND THAT IF HE WANTS THE COW TO SUCCEED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE G-77 ACCEPTS OUR VIEW ON THE NEED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. IF THE G-77 CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT ITS MEMBERS ARE GOING TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COW IN SEARCH OF COMMITMENTS, THEN WE SHOULD DEEMPHASIZE THIS FORUM. HINTON

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